

HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICE PROVIDERS

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Resource Directory

Prepared by Angela Glew
Michigan Department of Community Health
Injury and Violence Prevention Section

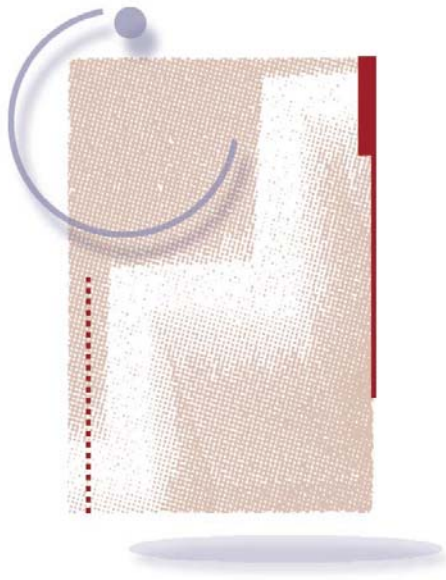
*Michigan Department
of Community Health*



Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Janet Olszewski, Director

To download a copy of this directory,
go to www.michigan.gov/injuryprevention

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**HEALTHCARE & FAMILY
SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY**

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

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Introduction

Dear Colleague:

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury and mortality to children. Child restraints are extremely effective in reducing hospitalization, severity of injury, and death to children. As a healthcare and family service provider, your clients look to you for information on best practices regarding child passenger safety (CPS).

The Michigan Department of Community Health, with a grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, is pleased to introduce the Healthcare and Family Service Providers CPS Resource Directory. This resource directory has been developed to assist you and your clients in answering questions about CPS.

The directory includes the following information:

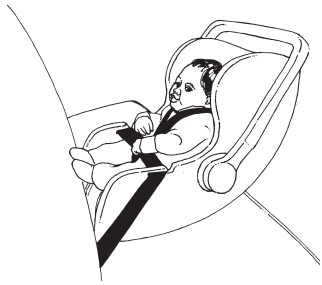
- ✓ Basic safety seat information
- ✓ Information on how to locate a CPS Technician or Fitting Station in your area.
- ✓ CPS resources
- ✓ Sample educational materials
- ✓ AAP Guidelines

We hope that you will find this directory helpful as you advise parents about keeping kids safe every ride. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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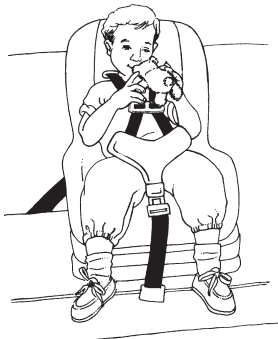
One-Minute Car Safety Seat Check-up



A. Infant-only seat



B. Rear-facing convertible seat



C. Convertible seat turned to face forward

Using a car safety seat correctly makes a big difference. Even the “safest” seat may not protect your child in a crash unless it is used correctly. So take a minute to check to be sure...

» **Does your car have a passenger air bag?**

- An infant in a rear-facing seat should NEVER be placed in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger air bag.
- The safest place for all children to ride is in the back seat.
- If an older child must ride in the front seat, move the vehicle seat as far back as possible, buckle the child properly, and make sure he stays in the proper position at all times.

» **Is your child facing the right way for weight, height, and age?**

- Infants should ride facing the back of the car until they have reached at least 1 year of age **AND** weigh at least 20 pounds (A and B).
- A child who weighs 20 pounds or exceeds the height limit for the car safety seat before she reaches 1 year of age should continue to ride rear-facing in a car safety seat approved for use at higher weights and heights in the rear-facing position.
- A child who weighs more than 20 pounds **AND** is older than 1 year may face forward (C). It is safest for a child to ride rear-facing until she reaches the top weight or height allowed by the seat for use in the rear-facing position.
- Once your child faces forward, she should remain in a car safety seat with a full harness until she reaches the top weight or height allowed by the seat. When changing the convertible seat for use in the forward-facing position, you must make adjustments. Check your car safety seat instructions.

» **Is the harness snug; does it stay on your child's shoulders?**

- Harnesses should fit snugly against your child's body. Check the car safety seat instructions on how to adjust the straps.
- The chest clip should be placed at armpit level (C) to keep the harness straps on the shoulders.

» **Has your child grown too tall or reached the top weight limit for the forward-facing seat?**

- Children are best protected in a car safety seat with a full harness until they reach the top weight or height limit of the car safety seat.
- Once your child outgrows his car safety seat, use a belt-positioning booster seat to help protect him until he is big enough for the seat belt to fit properly. A belt-positioning booster seat is used with a lap and shoulder belt (D).
- Shield boosters: Although boosters with shields may meet current Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for use by children who weigh 30 to 40 pounds, on the basis of current published peer-reviewed literature, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) does not recommend their use.
- A seat belt fits properly when the shoulder belt crosses the chest, the lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, and the child is tall enough so that when he sits against the vehicle seat back, his legs bend at the knees and his feet hang down.

» **Does the car safety seat fit correctly in your vehicle?**

- Not all car safety seats fit in all vehicles.
- When the car safety seat is installed, be sure it does not move side-to-side or toward the front of the car.
- Read the section on car safety seats in the owner's manual for your car.



D. Belt-positioning
booster seat

» Is the seat belt in the right place and pulled tight?

- Route the seat belt through the correct path (check your instructions to make sure), kneel in the seat to press it down, and pull the belt *tight*.
- A convertible seat has 2 different belt paths, 1 for use rear-facing and 1 for use forward-facing.
- Check the owner's manual for your car to see if you need to use a locking clip. Check the car safety seat instructions to see if you need a tether to keep the safety seat secure.

» Can you use the LATCH system?

- Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children (LATCH) is an anchor system that allows you to install a car safety seat without using a seat belt.
- Most new vehicles and all new car safety seats have these attachments to secure the car safety seat in the vehicle.
- Unless both the vehicle and the car safety seat have this system, seat belts are still needed to secure the car safety seat.

» Do you have the instructions for the car safety seat?

- Follow them and keep them with the car safety seat. You will need them as your child gets bigger.
- Be sure to send in the registration card that comes with the car safety seat. It will be important in case your car safety seat is recalled.

» Has your child's car safety seat been recalled?

- Call the Auto Safety Hotline or check the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Web site for a list of recalled seats. (See below.)
- Be sure to make any needed repairs to your car safety seat.

» Has your child's car safety seat been in a crash?

- If so, it may have been weakened and should not be used, even if it looks fine.
- If you must use a secondhand car safety seat, first check its full history. Do not use a car safety seat that has been in a crash, has been recalled, is too old (check with the manufacturer), has any cracks in its frame, or is missing parts. Make sure it has a label from the manufacturer and instructions.
- Call the car safety seat manufacturer if you have questions about the safety of your seat.

Questions?

Ask your pediatrician, a local safety group, or NHTSA. A certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician can help you use your child's car safety seat correctly. On the NHTSA Auto Safety Hotline or Web site, you may give your ZIP code to find the nearest CPS Technician.

The NHTSA Auto Safety Hotline

888/DASH-2-DOT (888/327-4236) (8:00 am to 10:00 pm ET, Monday through Friday) www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/

The AAP offers more information in the brochure *Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families*. Ask your pediatrician about this brochure or visit the AAP Web site at www.aap.org.

Although the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is not a testing or standard-setting organization, this guide sets forth AAP recommendations based on the peer-reviewed literature available at the time of its publication and sets forth some of the factors that parents should consider before selecting and using a car safety seat.

Please note: Listing of resources does not imply an endorsement by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The AAP is not responsible for the content of the resources mentioned in this brochure. Phone numbers and Web site addresses are as current as possible, but may change at any time.

The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.

To Locate A Child Passenger Safety Technician/Fitting Station in your area:

Go to www.safekids.org/certification

Click on Find Technician/Instructor (right hand side)

Enter city and state in search area

Child Passenger Safety Resources

CPS Information

National SAFE KIDS - www.safekids.org

Michigan SAFE KIDS - www.michigansafekids.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
1-888-327-4236 - www.nhtsa.gov

National CPS Board - www.cpsboard.org

Safety Belt Safe USA - www.carseat.org

Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning

Infant seat fliers, toddler seat fliers, booster seat fliers, L.A.T.C.H fliers, booster seat brochure, 4-stages poster, and booster seat poster. Available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. See pages 8-13.

Order online at www.michigan.gov/ohsp, click on traffic safety materials (left-hand side).

Recall List

www.hsrec.unc.edu/pubinfo/child_recall1.htm

Upcoming CPS classes and events

National SAFE KIDS - www.safekids.org/certification

Michigan SAFE KIDS - www.michigansafekids.org

Your Infant Should be **Rear-Facing** Until They are at Least One Year Old **and** at Least 20 Pounds

- Infants should ride facing the rear of the car until they are at least one year old *and* at least 20 pounds to protect their fragile heads and necks.
- Route harness straps at or below the shoulders.
- Keep harness straps snug, with no slack.

Rear-facing Car Seat



- Fasten harness clip at armpit level
- Put car seat carrying handle down.
- Recline a rear-facing seat at a 45-degree angle. A firmly rolled up towel under the car seat may help.
- Never put an infant in the front seat of a vehicle with a frontal air bag on the passenger side, unless you have a manual on-off switch and you have turned it off.
- The back seat is the safest place for children under 12 to sit.
- An infant-only seat should be replaced with a convertible seat (used rear-facing) before the infant's weight reaches the maximum limit for the seat and before the baby's head is within one inch of the top edge of the seat.

Michigan law requires that children up to the age of 4 must be properly buckled in a child safety seat while riding in a motor vehicle.

Car Seat Safety Tips

***Make sure your child
is riding safely***

- ***Study the vehicle owner's manual*** and car seat instructions carefully.
- ***Check to see if you need a locking clip.*** Not all safety belts will secure a car seat without it.
- ***Look for a car seat with a label*** saying it meets federal motor vehicle standards.
- ***Send in the car seat registration card*** to be notified in case there is a recall.
- ***Get a tight fit***—the car seat should not move more than one inch from side to side or forward. To check for proper installation, push and pull on the car seat near the safety belt buckle.
- ***Replace a car seat*** that has been in a crash.



**For more information visit
www.nhtsa.dot.gov**



**4000 Collins Road, P.O. Box 30633
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 336-6477 www.michigan.gov/ohsp**



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Your Toddler Can be in a **Forward-Facing Car Seat** if They are **Over 1 Year of Age** **and** **Over 20 Pounds**

- Harness straps must be in the proper forward-facing slot. Refer to your car seat manual.
 - Route harness straps at or above shoulder level.
 - Place car seat in upright position.
 - Fasten harness clip at armpit level.
 - Keep harness straps snug, with no slack.
 - The back seat is the safest place for children under the age of 12.
- 

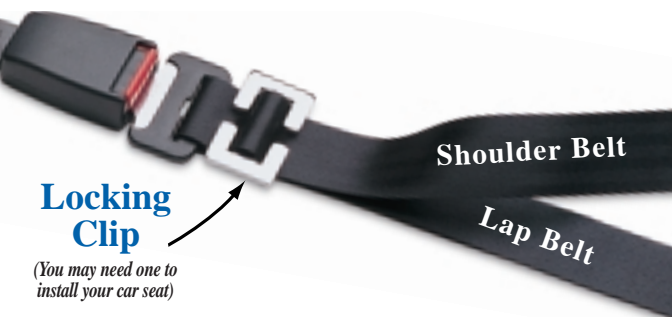
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Does Your Child Need a **Booster Seat**?

Take this five-step test to find out.

1. Can your child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do your child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can your child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered no to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat.

These seats *MUST* be used with the lap AND shoulder belt, *NEVER* the lap belt only.

- A booster seat helps the lap and shoulder belt fit correctly.

- The lap belt should fit across the top of the thighs, not on the stomach.
- The shoulder belt should cross the shoulder, not the neck or face.



Backless Booster Seat

If your vehicle has a high seat back you can use a backless booster seat.

High Back Booster Seat

If your vehicle has a low seat back and your child's ears are above it, you need a high back booster to protect his or her head.



Child Passenger Safety Tips

Take a minute to be sure your child is riding safely.

- Study the vehicle owner's manual and booster seat instructions carefully.
- Mail the booster seat registration card to be notified if the seat is recalled.
- Replace any booster seat that has been involved in a crash.
- Look for a seat with a label saying that it meets federal motor vehicle safety standards.
- Never boost a child with pillows, books or towels. These will not protect a child in a crash.
- The back seat is the safest place for children under age 12.
- Set a good example—buckle up yourself and insist that everyone in the car buckles up—**no exceptions.**

**For more information visit
www.michigansafekids.org**



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AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:

Safe Transportation of Newborns at Hospital Discharge

Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention

Abstract: All hospitals should set policies that require the discharge of every newborn in a car safety seat that is appropriate for the infant's maturity and medical condition. Discharge policies for newborns should include a parent education component, regular review of educational materials, and periodic in-service education for responsible staff. Appropriate child restraint systems should become a benefit of coverage by Medicaid, managed care organizations, and other third-party insurers.

PEDIATRICS Vol. 104 No. 4 October 1999, pp. 986-987

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:

Safe Transportation of Premature & Low Birth Weight Infants

Committee on Injury & Poison Prevention & Committee on Fetus & Newborn

Abstract: Special considerations are essential to ensure the safe transportation of premature and low birth weight infants. Both physical and physiologic issues must be considered in the proper positioning of these infants. This statement discusses current recommendations based on the latest research and provides guidelines for physicians who counsel parents of very small infants on the choice of the best car safety seats for their infants.

PEDIATRICS Vol. 97 No. 5 May 1996, pp. 758-760

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS:

Selecting and Using the Most Appropriate Car Safety Seats for Growing Children: Guidelines for Counseling Parents

Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention

Abstract: Despite the existence of laws in all 50 states requiring the use of car safety seats or child restraint devices for young children, more children are still killed as passengers in car crashes than from any other cause of injury. Pediatricians and other health care professionals need to provide up-to-date, appropriate information for parents regarding car safety seat choices and proper use. Although the American Academy of Pediatrics is not a testing or standard-setting organization, this policy statement discusses the Academy's current recommendations based on the peer-reviewed literature available at the time of publication and sets forth some of the factors that parents should consider before selecting and using a car safety seat.

PEDIATRICS Vol. 109 No. 3 March 2002, pp. 550-553